

**Building Employment Opportunities for People with Disabilities
Training Forum
Region V**

**March 3-4, 2004
Chicago, IL**

Tentative Agenda

OVERALL GOAL: To promote excellent services for individuals with disabilities into the Workforce Investment System, and to foster full integration of employment opportunities and services for individuals with disabilities into the Workforce Investment System.

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

1. Build system capacity by sharing and showcasing successful and effective workplace learning models, strategies, technical assistance tools and grants that assist individuals with disabilities to find successful employment.
2. Provide highlights of state and local partnership activities as well as joint Federal collaborative disability initiatives.

Attendee Groups:

- 1) **Regional Disability Working Group, State Equal Opportunity Officers, Other State Staff, Local Workforce Investment Board Members**
- 2) **Work Incentive Grantees, Office of Disability Employment Policy Grantees**
- 3) **Navigators, Other One-Stop staff, VR Counselors, BPAOs**

Wednesday, March 3rd:

8:00 – 9:00am:	Registration
8:30 – 8:45am:	Opening Remarks
8:45 – 10:15am:	Full Group Session: Moving from Disability Novice to Disability Expert: Tips from States and Locals that Have Made the Transition
10:15 – 10:30am:	Break
10:30 – 12:00pm:	Full Group Session: WIA Section 188: Tools for Achieving Compliance and Program Integration

- 12:00 – 1:00pm: Working Lunch: Facilitated Forum w/ USDOL, SSA, and RSA on New Disability Initiatives
- 1:00 – 1:15pm: Break
- 1:15 – 2:30pm: Concurrent Small Group Work Sessions
- Group #1: Tools and Strategies for Effective Disability Data Collection
 - Group #2: Building a Mystery Shopper Program for Customers with Disabilities
 - Group #3: Network and Share Session: topics include strategies for outreach, building collaboration, learning about programs and partners, etc.
- 2:30 – 2:45pm: Break
- 2:45 – 4:00pm: Concurrent Small Group Session
- Group #1: WIA Reauthorization: Important Elements for Serving Customers with Disabilities
 - Group #2 & Group #3: Customized Training 101: What is Customized Training and How Does It Benefit Customers with Disabilities?
- 4:00 – 5:00pm: Full Group Training: Understanding and Implementing the Disability Program Navigator Initiative

Thursday, March 4th:

- 8:30 – 10:00am: Full Group Training: Implementing Ticket to Work through the One-Stop System as an Employment Strategy
- 10:00 – 10:15am: Break
- 10:15 – 11:45am: Full Group Training: Disability Grants, Programs and Initiatives: Plugging your System into Available Resources
- 11:45 – 12:45pm: Working Lunch: Work as a Priority - Strategies for Helping People with Disabilities who are Homeless Get, Keep and Advance in Jobs
- 12:45 – 1:00pm: Break
- 1:00 – 2:15pm: Concurrent Small Group Work Sessions
- Group #1 & Group #2: Tools to Assist with Job Development for People with Disabilities
 - Group #3: Serving People with Hidden Disabilities

2:15 – 3:15pm: Full Group Training: Best Practices re: Working w/ Employers and Employer Intermediaries to Place Job Seekers with Disabilities

3:15 – 3:30pm: Closing Remarks